

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are amended. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1 - 28 are presented for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,484,527 to Janik et al (hereinafter Janik) and U.S. Patent No. 2,418,777 to Le Clair (hereinafter Le Clair).

Claim 1 recites that the communication module is "receivable in said body central axial opening at a plurality of angular orientations to said body" and "wherein said communication module is received in said body and **fixed to said body at an angular orientation selected from any of said plurality of angular orientations** to form said base module." (emphasis added)

The quoted passages of independent claim 1 allow the claimed base module to be assembled from a pair of mating components in an infinite variety of configurations and permanently joined in any of the infinite variety of assembled configurations.

Neither Janik nor Le Clair disclose, teach or suggest the flexibility of the claimed base module. Janik discloses a plastic custom member 18 assembled to a metal base by three screws extending through holes in the base to engage molded fastener receptacles in the custom module 18. Thus, while the custom member 18 may be received in the base at a plurality of angular orientations, it can only be joined to the base at one predetermined angular orientation relative to the base. Janik does not disclose, teach or suggest the need for or desirability of a base in which the custom member may be permanently fixed to the base at any of a plurality of angular orientations.

Le Clair discloses an oil filtration assembly with a two-part cap-shaped head. The upper and lower parts 7, 2 of the cap-shaped head are secured to each other by threaded fasteners extending through holes in the lower head member 2 to engage threaded bores in the upper head member 7. Thus, while the upper head member 7 may be receivable in the lower head member 2 at a plurality of angular orientations, it is only fixable to the upper head member at one selected orientation. This fact is reinforced by Le Clair's disclosure of a locking device comprising a pin 49 "sliding at its

lower end in a hole 50 in the part 2, and at its upper end in a hole 50a in the head cover 7." The functioning of this locking pin requires that the upper and lower head members 7, 2 be fixed to each other at a single relative angular orientation. (See Figure 3 and column 4, lines 38 - 47.)

In sum, neither Janik nor Le Clair disclose, teach or suggest the recitations of claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 2 - 10 are patentable for the reasons stated in support of claim 1.

Claims 11 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,452,695 to Schmidt (hereinafter Schmidt). Claim 11 recites in pertinent part, "wherein said communication module is receivable in said central opening at a plurality of angular orientations to said body and fixable to said body at an angular orientation selected from any of said plurality of angular orientations". The recitations of claim 11 make clear that the communication module is both receivable in and fixable to the central opening of the body at any of said plurality of angular orientations as discussed above with reference to claim 1.

In sum, Janik does not anticipate the recitations of claim 11 for the reasons stated with reference to claim 1. Janik clearly teaches a filter base module in which the custom member 18 corresponding to the communication module of claim 11 can only be fixed to the body of the base module in a single predetermined angular orientation. Janik does not disclose, teach or suggest the recitations of claim 11. The addition of the teachings of Schmidt do not improve the deficiencies of Janik as an anticipatory reference. The Examiner's proposed combination of Janik and Schmidt does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 11 - 20.

Claim 21 is rejected as anticipated by Janik and Le Clair. Applicant discussed above why the teachings of Janik and Le Clair are deficient with respect to a filter base module in which the communication module is both receivable and fixable to the base module body at any of a plurality of angular orientations. These features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Janik or Le Clair either alone or in combination. Claims 22 - 28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 21 and are patentable for at least the reasons stated in support of that claim.

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Steps c and d of claim 21 are amended to recite as follows:

"c) mating said communication module to said body at an angular orientation selected from any of said plurality of angular orientations; and

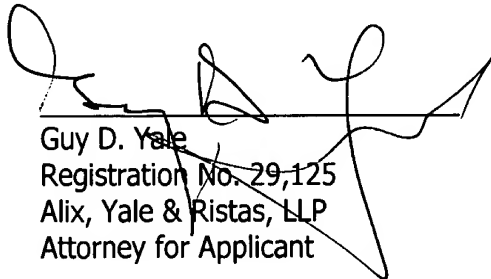
d) joining said communication module to said body at said selected angular orientation." Paragraphs c and d of claim 1 include features and relationships not disclosed, taught or suggested by Janik or Schmidt. Claim 21 is patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination of Janik and Schmidt.

Claims 22 - 28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 21 and are patentable for at least the reasons stated in support of claim 21.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 - 28.

Respectfully submitted,

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